

family planning programs give to communities around the world.

I hope they will support our bill H.R. 3634, the Saving Women's Lives Through International Family Planning Act.

FEED THE POOR AND HUNGRY CHILDREN IN AMERICA WITHOUT FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I support giving all the help we can to poor, hungry children in America, but when the programs that are supposed to help children are wasting money instead, that is a problem.

A recent review by the House Committee on the Budget found that the food stamp program made an estimated \$1.4 billion in improper payments in 1998, because food stamps are like currency, they can be easily used for fraudulent purposes.

For example, 14 members of an Indiana gang stole \$728,000 worth of food stamps from four county welfare offices and proceeded to trade them for cocaine and explosives.

In 1995 and 1996, a total of \$8.5 million in food stamps were paid out to 26,000 dead people in four States. No one knows who cashed in the benefits.

These are types of blatant fraud and abuse that hurt the children's food stamps that were designed to help and we need to do something about it.

INVESTIGATE CHINESE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department has attacked Bill Gates and Microsoft with a passion, literally trying to destroy the company. Meanwhile, the Justice Department refuses to investigate serious allegations of crimes involving Communist Chinese nationals and top White House officials. Something is wrong here, very wrong. Microsoft may be a threat to software, but China is an absolute threat to hardware and the national security of the United States of America.

Now we may never see the day, but I predict unless Congress intervenes, our children and their children may some day meet a massive Chinese military threat armed to their dragon teeth with arms and weapons bought by the American taxpayers no less. Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that we need an investigation into these allegations.

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago I gave Bill Clinton my porker award for his \$72 million trip to the African continent. Well, it looks like he is at it again. Clinton just returned from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Switzerland with not one foreign policy success. He did nothing to ease the poverty in Bangladesh, was scoffed at by the Indian parliament, dismissed by Pakistani leaders, and rebuffed by the President of Syria.

Instead, he showered the American public with photos of himself playing with elephants, dancing with, quote, empowered women and touring the Taj Mahal with daughter Chelsea.

The 10-day trip included a virtual aerial armada of 26 military cargo planes and more than 50 other support aircraft. The Air Force, which had to do 177 strategic lift missions and 460 mission launches, has estimated that the price tag for the Asian tour could top \$75 million.

Now I know the President needs to be protected but give me a break. ABC pegged this junket correctly when it said it was a protected sight-seeing tour. Bill Clinton gets my porker of the week award.

THE INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF GLENN GEBHARD'S CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue in my mission to help bring our children home. Glenn Gebhard and his twin children Glenn and Shannon are just one example of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries. Shortly after he was married, Glenn's ex-wife moved back to Germany and took their children with her. For 2 years, he had contact with his children; but in 1994, she decided she would have no future contact.

Glenn has gone through the German court system numerous times and has actually been told by German judges that they do not believe in the laws that provide for unquestionable rights to access.

Glenn Gebhard has done nothing wrong. He has played by the rules. He has continued paying child support, yet he has not seen his children in almost 6 years, an eternity to a 7-year-old. Physical and psychological bonds have been severed between two children and their father who loves them. American children who are being held abroad must be returned to their parents. Countries who are not abiding by The Hague convention must be entreated to do so, and I ask my colleagues not to think as Members of Congress but as

parents and grandparents and work with me to solve this pervasive problem.

American children and their parents are asking for your help. Please listen.

SPENDING KEEPS GOING HIGHER WHILE SAT SCORES KEEP GETTING LOWER

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, is there a relationship between how much money is spent on education and how well students do? If I look at a graph showing SAT scores since 1960 and spending on education since 1960, I note that spending just keeps going higher and higher while SAT scores keep going lower and lower. Or if I look at how much money is spent in cities like Washington, New York, Chicago, or Kansas City, I note that school districts that spend the most money often have the lowest SAT scores, presumably meaning the worst schools.

What am I to conclude? Mr. Speaker, when I talk to teachers, and I don't mean education establishment bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., when I talk to teachers in the classroom they all agree that it is important that schools are adequately funded. But no one, virtually no one, says that money is the most important thing. So what makes for better school achievement? Most important are loving parents who teach their children that education is important. No government program can do that. That is something that money cannot buy.

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WORLD HEALTH DAY

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we celebrate World Health Day. Unfortunately, though, too many of the world's women have no cause for celebration. Nearly 600,000 women die each year from pregnancy and childbirth-related complications. That is one woman every minute.

For every maternal death that occurs worldwide, an estimated 30 additional women suffer pregnancy-related health problems.

More than 150 million married women in developing nations still want to space or limit childbearing, but do not have access to modern contraceptives.

Yet, despite these startling statistics, the U.S. commitment to women's health remains woefully inadequate.

That is why I, along with 31 of my colleagues, support legislation to increase the U.S. commitment to women's health by \$300 million as part of our legislation, the Global Health Act 2000.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3826, the Global Health Act of 2000, authorizes \$1 billion in additional resources to improve children's and women's health and nutrition, provide access to voluntary family planning, and combat the spread of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, by passing the Global Health Act, the United States would make a giant leap forward in promoting access to healthcare for millions of the world's women. I hope we all can keep this in mind as we observe World Health Day tomorrow.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 460 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 460

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1776) to expand homeownership in the United States. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Banking and Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a re-

corded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), ranking member of the Committee on Rules; pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 460 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1776, the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, after which the House will consider a bipartisan manager's amendment, as well as 11 other amendments that the Committee on Rules made in order. Of these amendments, five will be offered by Democrats, four will be offered by Republicans, and three are bipartisan. Additionally, the rule allows the minority to offer the customary motion to recommit with or without instructions.

So I think it is fair to describe this rule as carefully balanced and fair. It gives Members on both sides of the aisle equal opportunity to alter the legislation, and the House will have the opportunity to fully debate the merits of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American Homeownership Act is the result of hard work and negotiation, and I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for his continued commitment to updating and improving our Nation's housing policies.

The goal of H.R. 1776 is simple. The bill seeks to help more Americans realize the dream of owning their own home. While today's economic prosperity has allowed our Nation's homeownership rate to peak at 67 percent and nearly 70 million households own their homes, we all know that not every American is enjoying today's economic boom. For too many hard-working families, homeownership seems an unattainable dream.

H.R. 1776 takes a number of steps to reduce the barriers to homeownership that low-income Americans face. For example, the bill reduces unnecessary, excessive regulation that adds thousands of dollars to the cost of a home.

Under this legislation, all proposed Federal regulations must include a housing impact analysis so that the Government can determine if policies will jeopardize the availability of affordable housing.

H.R. 1776 also empowers local communities to boost homeownership in their neighborhoods. People who own their homes have a greater stake in their neighborhoods; and by increasing homeownership, cities can look forward to cleaner, safer neighborhoods.

Under the bill, localities will be able to leverage public funds with private funds in order to increase homeownership opportunities. Through the creation of a mixed-income loan pool and a home loan guaranteed program, more Americans will have access to affordable housing.

Local flexibility is also enhanced by provisions that allow mayors and local government officials to use Federal funds to assist first-time home buyers who are municipal employees to purchase homes in the communities where they serve.

It makes sense for those who are largely responsible for the safety of our communities and who act as role models for our children, such as police officers, fire fighters, teachers, to actually live in the neighborhoods where they work.

This bill will grant localities the flexibility to establish smarter urban planning policies and strengthen their communities by allowing city workers to become our neighbors and keeping workers closer to their jobs.

The American Homeownership Opportunity Act also helps families who rely on section 8 rent assistance, by giving public housing authorities the option of providing a single grant to a tenant as a down payment assistance in lieu of the monthly assistance for rent.

Special assistance is also provided to the disabled, to Native Americans, rural residents, and senior citizens through this bill.

Another housing policy that H.R. 1776 corrects is the existence of HUD-foreclosed, vacant, and substandard properties that scar neighborhoods and hamper economic vitality. This bill seeks to put these properties into the hands of local governments and community development corporations who can revitalize these neglected neighborhoods.

Finally, the bill updates the antiquated provisions of the Manufactured Housing Act to improve the quality, safety, and affordability of manufactured homes and the Federal management of the program. These changes